

to his bold and untiring genius. Westminster, which once had the honour of being represented by John Stuart Mill, will do itself honour again by electing John Morley.

GLADSTONE AND BEACONSFIELD.

It is interesting to watch the movements of the two great party leaders in England—Beaconsfield and Gladstone. The men are just what they have been for twenty years past,—the one wily, mysterious, bewilderingly brilliant; the other ardent, outspoken, rashly radical, afraid of nothing but his own conscience. Which of the twain will win this time no one can say. Public opinion so far maintains the Earl, and for some time to come his foreign policy is not likely to lead to any very great disaster. If England can keep her present footing with Germany, and Austria can be induced to remain firm in her practical alliance with both England and Germany, it is not likely that Russia will dare to treat even the English occupation of Herat as a *casus belli*. And Mr. Gladstone has committed himself, since he took to the stump, to some extreme measures which have alarmed, and perhaps alienated, some of the more moderate and timid among the Liberals. But whatever the immediate result may be, the final issue is certain. The Beaconsfield programme must break down, sooner or later, under the stress of the hostile interests England is arraying against herself, and when it comes the reaction will be sharp and strong. "Peace with honour" had its brief day and was killed by contempt; "Imperium et Libertas," as a policy, was doomed the moment it was uttered.

JOHN A. ROEBUCK.

The announcement that John Arthur Roebuck was dead came as a shock to most of us, for we had grown accustomed to regard this man as a necessary part of that curious conglomeration we call "the English people." An old saw has it that an Englishman is never happy unless he is grumbling, and in that respect Roebuck was intensely an Englishman. He never found fault with himself, and had some admiration for the Emperor Napoleon, but beyond those two great entities, he found but little that was worthy of regard. He loved a fight, and gloried in a political paradox, but for all that, the man was a great power in the land. He never helped very much, for by the nature of him, he was destructive—but he hindered a great deal that ought to have been stopped altogether, and when a Cabinet lent itself to crimes, as when the Aberdeen Ministry entered upon the Crimean War, J. A. Roebuck could be depended upon for saying the right thing in a rough way. Failings he had, and not a few, but he has rendered good service to his country. *Requiescat in pace.*

COTTON.

Liverpool has been distinguishing itself lately. Cotton has been subjected to those "bulling" and "bearing" processes indigenous to the soil of Wall Street, New York. There has been a corner in cotton. The visible supply, though quite sufficient for all legitimate wants, was not excessive, so the bulls placed themselves in a position to buy and hold more cotton than could possibly be delivered on settling day. Naturally prices went up; so did some of the "bears," for they had to deliver or pay the difference in price. This is strictly moral and entirely as it should be, according to their creed, for it is in the nature of such animals as bulls and bears to gore and bite and injure each other. But does it serve the cause of usefulness in the world that the factories which needed cotton to complete current contracts for useful cloth should require to stand idly by till the mad game was over and a return to the normal condition of prices rendered its use again possible? The world is finding out gradually the fearful drain such gamblers make upon its resources. These plunderers constitute the upper crust—cool, crisp and not transparent—of the criminal classes. Society ought so to treat them. For law itself is used to aid the crime, and is therefore plainly powerless to prevent it. England will yet find a remedy in social ostracism, and "when found it will be made a note of." The remedy will be exported, in spite of Protection, and applied to similar diseases in Wall Street and its miniatures nearer home.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Among the many serious problems to be dealt with in the next session of the Imperial Parliament, the all-important ones of land tenure and food supply will occupy a prominent place. Notwithstanding untold wealth, vast exports, industries that supply the world and the constant demand for labour, there can be no doubt that some parts of Great Britain have recently severely suffered the misfortunes of actual distress and want. The land laws of Great Britain have to be reformed and the country must become more self-sustaining. This fact is the first to present itself to every traveller, whatever his political opinions or prejudices, on visiting this continent. England is committed to the principles of free trade in food supplies, and has discarded the ancient belief that prosperity is to be secured by the taxation of such imports. Landlords, however, who rule so largely the destinies of Great Britain, are now clinging to the skirts of protection under cover of an epidemic among cattle, and the importation of live stock into the country has been prohibited. The consequences of this action are of much interest to Canada, its population, industries, and carrying interests. The rapidly increasing settlement of this Continent has caused an enormous development of animal food supply, and nearly all the Western, North-Western and South-Western States have cultivated the raising of cattle, and now forward continuous shipments of live stock to the Eastern markets. Some idea of the extent of this production may be gathered from official returns of Chicago, which is the central distributing point. In 1878, 1,083,068 cattle, 6,389,654 hogs, and 310,420 sheep entered the stock yards of that city, representing a total value of \$106,000,000. A large proportion of this great aggregate was shipped by the railways converging in Chicago to Eastern States and into or through Canada. It has been demonstrated that live stock may be safely and profitably exported to Europe. In England the result was to lower the price of food, and the British producer took alarm. Happily for him, however, pleuro-pneumonia came to the rescue. Instances of infected cattle had been discovered in some American imports, and the United States were scheduled—that is, the cattle were prohibited from being forwarded alive to their destination after being landed from the vessel in which they had crossed the Atlantic. A notification from the Imperial to the Dominion Government also caused the issue of a prohibitory order against the admission of cattle into Canada from the United States. It has been proved beyond controversy that no disease exists among cattle reared in the Western States, and there can be little doubt that if precautions were taken to examine cattle on arrival in Europe, no danger of infection need be feared. It is therefore evident that Protection, not pleuro-pneumonia, was at the bottom of the prohibitory order.

The action of the Imperial Government, preventing as it did Americans supplying the English market, gave some, although not much impetus to the export of Canadian stock. Our people were at the same time entirely dependent for food on Canadian-raised cattle by the prohibition against American cattle coming into Canada. The American market was, however, at this time left open for Canadian enterprise, but the United States Government did not permit this state of things to continue, and from the 1st of December no cattle have been permitted to pass from Canada into United States territory. Interchange between the two countries is therefore suspended, and industries which depend upon cattle supply—as, for instance, dressed meat exports—are at an end. The important question arises: Can the Dominion, thus isolated, continue to export and to provide for its own requirements without enhancing the price of food and consequent cost of living in Canada? Must it not of necessity resign its cattle exports? The action of the American Government has been taken upon simply retaliatory principles, without the shadow of an excuse in the case of cattle, and it will assuredly follow in the wake of England or Canada if further prohibitory measures are adopted. In this dilemma there can be no doubt it is rather the duty of a wise Government to provide for the wants of an entire population than to preserve to shippers of cattle any margin of difference there may be between the value of animals in England alive and slaughtered. It is better that Canada be placed on the footing of America with Great Britain upon this question than be excluded from the great live-stock trade of this continent.

EDITOR.